

CHAPTER 1.2.1.

NOTIFICATIONS AND EPIDEMIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Article 1.2.1.1.

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code* and in terms of Articles 5, 9 and 10 of the Statutes, every Member Country of the OIE shall recognise the right of the *Central Bureau* to communicate directly with the *Veterinary Administration* of its *territory* or *territories*.

All *notifications* and all information sent by the OIE to the *Veterinary Administration* shall be regarded as having been sent to the country concerned and all *notifications* and all information sent to the OIE by the *Veterinary Administration* shall be regarded as having been sent by the country concerned.

Article 1.2.1.2.

- 1) Countries shall make available to other countries, through the OIE, whatever information is necessary to minimise the spread of **important** aquatic animal *diseases* and their aetiological agents and to assist in achieving better world-wide control of these *diseases*.
- 2) To achieve this, countries shall comply with the reporting requirements specified in Article 1.2.1.3.
- 3) To assist in the clear and concise exchange of information, reports shall conform as closely as possible to the current OIE disease reporting format.
- 4) Recognising that scientific knowledge concerning the relationship between *disease agents* and *diseases* is constantly evolving and that the presence of an infectious agent does not necessarily imply the presence of a *disease*, countries shall ensure through their reports that they comply with the spirit and intention of paragraph 1 above. This means that the presence of an infectious agent, even in the absence of clinical *disease*, should be reported.
- 5) In addition to *notifying new* findings in accordance with Article 1.2.1.3., countries shall also provide information on the measures taken to prevent the spread of *diseases*, including possible quarantine measures and restrictions on the movement of *aquatic animals*, *aquatic animal products*, *biological products* and other miscellaneous objects that could by their nature be responsible for transmission of *disease*. In the case of *diseases* transmitted by vectors, the measures taken against such vectors shall also be **reported described**.

Article 1.2.1.3.

Veterinary Administrations shall send to the OIE:

- 1) Immediate *notification* (within 24 hours) by fax **telegram** or electronically ~~mail~~, of any of the following events:
 - a) for *diseases listed by the OIE*, the first occurrence or re-occurrence of a *disease* in a country or zone or compartment of the country, if the country or zone or compartment of the country was previously considered to be free of that particular *disease*; or

- b) for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has occurred in a new host species; or
- c) for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has occurred with a new pathogen strain or in a new disease manifestation; or
- d) for diseases listed by the OIE, if there is **potential increased risk** for international spread of the disease; or
- e) for diseases listed by the OIE, if the disease has newly recognised zoonotic potential; or
- f) for diseases not listed by the OIE, if there is a case of an *emerging disease* or pathogenic agent should there be findings that are of epidemiological significance to other countries.

In deciding whether findings justify immediate *notification* (**within 24 hours**), countries must ensure that they comply with the obligations of Section 1.3. of this *Aquatic Code* (especially Article 1.3.1.1.), to report developments that may have implications for *international trade*.

- 2) ~~Monthly~~ Weekly reports by fax **telegram** or electronically ~~mail~~ subsequent to a *notification* under paragraph 1 above, to provide further information on the evolution of an incident that justified ~~urgent immediate~~ *notification*. These reports should continue until the disease has been eradicated or the situation has become sufficiently stable that ~~annual~~ six-monthly reporting under paragraph 3 will satisfy the obligation of the country to the OIE; in each case, a final report on the incident should be submitted.
- 3) ~~Annual~~ Six-monthly reports on the absence or presence and evolution of *diseases listed by the OIE*, and findings of epidemiological ~~importance~~ significance to other countries with respect to diseases that are not listed.
- 4) An annual questionnaire concerning any other information of significance to other countries.

Article 1.2.1.4.

- 1) The *Veterinary Administration* **or other Competent Authority** of a territory in which an *infected zone* or compartment was located shall inform the *Central Bureau* when this *zone* or compartment is free from the disease.
- 2) An *infected zone* or compartment of a determined disease shall be considered as such until a period exceeding the known *infective period* for the disease in question has elapsed after the last reported *outbreak* and when full prophylactic and appropriate sanitary measures have been applied to prevent possible reappearance or spread of the disease. These measures will be found in detail in the various chapters of Parts 2, 3 or 4 of this *Aquatic Code*.
- 3) A country may declare itself free **be considered to be** again **free** from a specific disease when **it can show that** all the conditions given in the corresponding chapters of Parts 2, 3 or 4 of this *Aquatic Code* have been **implemented** fulfilled.
- 4) The *Veterinary Administration* **or other Competent Authority** of a country that sets up one or several *free zones* or compartments shall inform the OIE, giving necessary particulars of the *zones* or compartments and describing their location (e.g. by a map or other precise locators such as GPS co-ordinates) on a map of the country.

~~Article 1.2.1.5.~~

~~Veterinary Administrations shall communicate to the OIE the provisions of their importation and exportation aquatic animal health regulations.~~

~~They shall also communicate any amendments to their regulations as soon as they are made and, at the latest, before the annual General Session of the OIE International Committee.~~

Article 1.2.1.56.

- 1) The *Central Bureau* shall send by fax **telegram** or electronically mail to the *Veterinary Administration* concerned, all *notifications* received as provided in Articles 1.2.1.2- 1.2.1.4.
- 2) The *Central Bureau* shall notify Member Countries through *Disease Information* of any event of exceptional epidemiological significance reported by a Member Country.
- 3) ~~The *Central Bureau*, on the basis of information received and of any official communication, shall prepare an annual report concerning the application of this *Aquatic Code* and its effects on international trade.~~

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